RG104 E-1 Box 144 Feb-Mar 1887

23. February, 1887

Sir,

In reference to a letter of Feb. 21., which you received from the Director of the Mint, inquiring the cause of delay in forwarding our Reports on Refining Gold & Silver, I beg to say, that the chief cause of delay for some months past has been, the addition of a large amount of business in the Refinery, in cleaning base coin, the 5 ct. and 1-ct., by the same set of men whose business has been, and is still, Refining Gold and Silver. The same three men are employed for these operations, and no more have been asked for, nor actually needed, if we are allowed to accommodate their activity to both the above operations. It required some time early in the Fall to make these two sets of operations work harmoniously, and while accomplishing this, we fell somewhat in the rear in Refining. We are now hastening to fill the Gap in the latter process, having

RG104 E-1 Box 144 Feb-Mar 1887

caught up one or two months. I propose forwarding the completed Report on Refining for October (1886) forthwith, and shall in a few days send the Report for November. The work for December is progressing, and will, I think, be ready within two weeks.

I may remark in conclusion, that my single force of three men, cannot divide itself, so as to conduct the two operations at the same time, nor in exactly the same place or space, without the dreadful risk of mingling base metal with Gold and Silver.

Very respectfully

I. A. C. Booth

M. S. R.

Hon. D. M. Fox

Superintendent.

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 144

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,
February 23, 1887

Sir,

In reference to a letter of February 21, which you received from the Director of the Mint, inquiring the cause of delay in forwarding our Reports on Refining Gold & Silver, I beg to say, that the chief cause of delay for some months past has been, the addition of a large amount of business in the Refinery in cleaning baser coin, the 5 ct. and 1 ct., by the same set of men whose business has been, and is still, Refining Gold and Silver. The same three men are employed for these operations, and no more have been asked for, nor actually needed, if we are allowed to accommodate their activity to both the above operations. It required some time early in the Fall to make these two sets of operations work harmoniously, and while accomplishing this, we fell somewhat in the rear in Refining. We are now hasting to fill the Gap in the latter process, having caught up one or two months. I propose forwarding the completed Report on Refining for October (1886) forthwith, and shall in a few days send the Report for November. The work for December is progressing, and will, I think, be ready within two weeks.

I may remark in conclusion, that my singe forge of three men cannot divide itself, so as to conduct the two operations at the same time, nor in exactly the same place or space, without the dreadful risk of mingling base metal with gold and silver.

Very respectfully,
Jas. C. Booth
M & R.

Hon. D.M. Fox
Superintendent.